

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A bearing insert and service tools therefor providing for the removable installation of the insert within a cooperatively threaded bearing housing, the insert and tools comprising in combination:

a cylindrical bearing insert sleeve having a first end, a second end opposite said first end, an inner diameter dimensioned for the press fit of at least one bearing therein, and an outer diameter;

an externally threaded portion disposed about at least the first end of said sleeve, the externally threaded portion having a threaded diameter greater than the outer diameter of said sleeve;

a plurality of tool engagement slots disposed peripherally about the first end of said sleeve;

a bearing insert installation and removal tool having a first end, a second end opposite the first end, an inner diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of said bearing insert, and an outer diameter substantially equal to the threaded diameter of said bearing insert;

a plurality of bearing insert engagement fingers extending peripherally and axially from the first end of said bearing insert installation and removal tool, the fingers being dimensioned for fitting closely within the slots of said sleeve;

a bearing press plate formed of a ~~[[thick,]]~~ rigid sheet of material having a first side, a second side opposite the first side, and a threaded, generally concentric bearing insert passage therethrough;

the bearing insert passage of said bearing press plate having a diameter and thread configuration for the threaded and removable installation of the externally threaded portion of said bearing insert therein; and

a plurality of support legs extending from at least one of the sides of said bearing press plate, substantially normal thereto.

2. *(Currently Amended)* The bearing insert and service tools combination according to claim 1, wherein said bearing insert sleeve comprises a ~~thin-walled~~ cylinder formed of ~~hard~~ steel material.

Claim 3. *(Original)* The bearing insert and service tools combination according to claim 1, wherein said first end of said bearing insert sleeve further includes a snap ring groove formed internally therein.

Claim 4. *(Original)* The bearing insert and service tools combination according to claim 1, further including a tool fitting extending concentrically from said second end of said bearing insert installation and removal tool.

Claim 5. (*Original*) The bearing insert and service tools combination according to claim 4, wherein said tool fitting comprises a hexagonal extension configured for fitting a conventional hexagonal wrench.

Claim 6. (*Original*) The bearing insert and service tools combination according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of legs of said bearing press plate further comprises a first plurality of legs extending from said first side of said plate and a second plurality of legs extending from said second side of said plate.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A threaded bearing insert and bearing insert housing, comprising in combination:

a cylindrical bearing insert sleeve having a first end, a second end opposite the first end, an inner diameter dimensioned for the press fit of at least one bearing therein, and an outer diameter;

an externally threaded portion disposed about at least the first end of said sleeve, the externally threaded portion having a threaded diameter greater than the outer diameter of said sleeve; ~~and~~

a bearing housing structure having a bearing insert passage formed therein, the bearing insert passage of said bearing housing structure having an internal diameter closely fitting the outer diameter of said bearing insert sleeve and an outer end threaded compatibly for removably receiving the externally threaded portion of said bearing insert sleeve therein; and

a plurality of tool engagement slots disposed peripherally about said first end of said bearing insert sleeve.

Claim 8. (*Canceled*)

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) The bearing insert and bearing insert housing combination according to claim 7, wherein said bearing insert sleeve comprises a ~~thin-walled~~ cylinder formed of hard steel material.

Claim 10. (*Original*) The bearing insert and bearing insert housing combination according to claim 7, wherein said first end of said bearing insert sleeve further includes a snap ring groove formed internally therein.

Claim 11. (*Original*) The bearing insert and bearing insert housing combination according to claim 7, wherein said bearing housing structure comprises a suspension knuckle component for a front wheel drive automobile.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) A tool assembly for removing bearings from and installing bearings into a threaded bearing insert having an inner diameter and an outer diameter having an externally threaded portion thereon, the tool assembly comprising:

a bearing insert installation and removal tool having a first end, a second end opposite the first end, an inner diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of the bearing insert, and an outer diameter substantially equal to the outer diameter of the bearing insert;

a plurality of bearing insert engagement fingers extending peripherally and axially from the first end of said bearing insert installation and removal tool;

a bearing press plate formed of a [[thick,]] rigid sheet of material having a first side, a second side opposite the first side, and a threaded, generally concentric bearing insert passage therethrough, the bearing insert passage having a diameter and thread configuration for the threaded and removable installation of the externally threaded portion of the bearing insert therein; and

a plurality of support legs extending from at least one the sides of said bearing press plate, substantially normal thereto.

Claim 13. (*Original*) The tool assembly according to claim 12, further including a tool fitting extending concentrically from the second end of said bearing insert installation and removal tool.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) The tool assembly according to claim 14 13, wherein said tool fitting comprises a hexagonal extension configured for fitting a conventional hexagonal wrench.

Claim 15. (*Original*) The tool assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of legs of said bearing press plate further comprises a first plurality of legs extending from the first side of said plate and a second plurality of legs extending from the second side of said plate.